

Lesley Stokes

CURRICULUM VITAE

NMFS/SEFSC/CIMAS • 75 Virginia Beach Drive • Miami, FL 33149 • (305) 361-4228 •
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Education:

Master of Science, 2003, Florida Atlantic University, Biological Sciences
Bachelor of Science, 1992, Jacksonville University, Marine Science, Communications

Professional experience:

8/03-present **National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center/
University of Miami, Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric
Studies**

Research Associate / Sea Turtle Team

Maintain and edit data in Highly Migratory Species observer database. Participate in research evaluating pelagic longline sea turtle bycatch reduction methods, including hook and bait behavioral feeding interactions, careful handling and release protocols, and oral cavity morphometry in loggerhead sea turtles. Assist with observer training and fieldwork preparation. Maintain current lists of observer deployments, equipment assignments, take tables, data summaries, reports and permit applications. Assist with Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), including data entry, necropsies, and nesting beach surveys.

8/01-8/03 **Florida Atlantic University**

Research Assistant

Designed, constructed and supervised a saltwater laboratory to house 600 loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings as part of an EPA Star Grant sex ratio research project. Conducted morphometric analysis of population to investigate early stage growth rates. Managed project databases, spreadsheets, and statistical analysis. Assisted in laparoscopic sex determination surgical procedures, and the application of living tags on post hatchlings. Monitored water quality, husbandry, health, and nutrition of the animals. Assisted in writing grant proposals, reports and permit applications. Hired, trained and supervised a staff of students and volunteers. Coordinated with local sea turtle monitoring projects in Florida to mark nests and collect hatchlings.

Teaching Assistant

Taught Biological Principles and Biodiversity Laboratory classes to university science majors, focusing on taxonomy, anatomy, genetics, and laboratory technique. Presented guest lectures at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute on sea turtle biology and conservation. Conducted turtle walks in conjunction with the HBOI education department.

9/00-3/01

Las Baulas Leatherback Nesting Project

Playa Grande, Costa Rica

Principal Investigator, Field Manager

Supervised a team of biologists and Earthwatch volunteers on a leatherback nesting beach. Responsible for data entry, database management, project finances, website updates, permit requests and reports to the local regulatory agency. Scheduled and implemented nightly beach patrols conducting a population census. Field duties included pit tagging, collecting morphometric data, relocating eggs, and managing a hatchery. Conducted community outreach and educational presentations for tourists, local residents and school groups within the community. Coordinated research activities for visiting research partners.

4/93-9/00

SeaWorld Florida

Orlando, Florida

Senior Aquarist

Maintained a variety of live animal exhibits housing fish, invertebrates, sharks and reptiles (sea turtles and alligators). Designed and maintained exhibits and filtration systems. Coordinated the sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation program. Assisted veterinary staff in sea turtle rehabilitation medical procedures. Supervised tropical fish quarantine and aquaculture facilities. Conducted aquaculture research, specializing in seahorse culture (*Hippocampus reidi* and *H. erectus*). Collecting (fish and invertebrates) and research in the field, including shark tracking and reproductive biology research. Supervisory responsibilities included scheduling a staff of 30 employees, directly supervising up to 8 employees in my area, and assisting in performance evaluations and disciplinary procedures.

1/92-4/93

Museum of Science and History

Jacksonville, Florida

Naturalist

Supervise live animal exhibits housing reptiles, raptors and mammals. Maintained fresh and saltwater aquaria. Created and implemented educational exhibits and public demonstrations. Taught visiting school groups and supervised the high school and college internship programs. Coordinated community outreach programs.

Related skills:

PADI Open Water SCUBA certification, small craft handling experience, Coast Guard Coastal and Advanced Navigation certifications. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, SPSS, ArcView and ArcGIS. One year graduate level training in theoretical statistics. Conversational Spanish skills, Class B CDL.

Publications:

Stokes, L. 2003. A seasonal and latitudinal assessment of early growth rates in northern and southeastern United States loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta* L.). M. Sc. Thesis. Florida Atlantic University. 54 p.

Epperly, S., Stokes, L. and S. Dick. 2004. Careful release protocols for sea turtle release with minimal injury. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-524, 42 p.

Abstracts/Presentations:

Stokes, L., Blair, K., Wyneken, J., Marsh, J., Baird, C., and L. Crowder. In press. A seasonal and latitudinal assessment of early growth rates in northern and southeastern United States loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). Proceedings of the 24th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Feb. 2004, San Jose, Costa Rica. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC.

Blair, K., Stokes, L., Wyneken, J., Marsh, J., Foote, J., Wibbles, T., and L. Crowder. In press. Determination of the sex ratios of loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*, L.) hatchlings produced along the southeastern Atlantic coast. Proceedings of the 24th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Feb. 2004, San Jose, Costa Rica. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC.

Lux, J., Reina, R. and L. Stokes. 2003. Nesting activity of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in relation to tidal and lunar cycles at Playa Grande, Costa Rica. Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. April 4-7, 2002, Miami, Florida. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC-503: 215.

Nieto, M., Tomillo, P.S., Stokes, L., and R. Reina. 2003. Last one's a rotten egg: differential emergence success of new and remigrant leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) at Playa Grande, Costa Rica: 1999-2000. Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. April 4-7, 2002, Miami, Florida. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC-503: 153-154.

Tomillo, P.S., Nieto, M., Price, E.R., Stokes, L., Saba, V.S., and R.D. Reina. 2003. Productivity and incubation parameters of the leatherback hatchery at Parque Nacional Marino Las Baulas, Costa Rica: 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 seasons. Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. April 4-7, 2002, Miami, Florida. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC-503: 158.

Awards:

Recipient of the Archie Carr Student Poster Award, Runner Up Biology Poster. 24th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. February 2004. San Jose, Costa Rica.
